THE ART EXHIBITION CATALOGUES OF THE VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

Published on microfiche by:

Chadwyck-Healey Ltd
21 Bateman Street
Cambridge CB2 1NB
England

Somerset House
417 Maitland Avenue
Teaneck, NJ 07666
USA

Date of publication and production of master: 1976

Series: The purpose of this series to make available those catalogues that have lasting interest through their text or their illustrations. Catalogues and cumulations of titles in the series are available from the publishers.

Serial numbers: Each title is identified by a seven-figure serial number placed in the top right hand corner of the microfiche title strip. The first figure indicates the number of the list in which the title first appears. The first three-figure group signifies the gallery or museum; the second three-figure group the accession number for that title.

Copyright, microfiche edition: Crown copyright. Reproduced by permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. The year of publication of the original to which this copyright refers is given on the title strip. No part of the publication reproduced on this microfiche may be reproduced in any form without permission from Her Majesty's Stationery Office and Chadwyck-Healey Ltd.

Technical data:

Producing laboratory: Micromedia Ltd, Kidlington, Oxford, England.

6055. V

VICTORIA AND ALBERT MUSEUM

MEMORIAL EXHIBITION

TO

EDWARD JOHNSTON

BORN 1872-DIED 1944

CALLIGRAPHER

OCTOBER–DECEMBER

1945

PRICE SIXPENCE

46 P. 107

FOREWORD

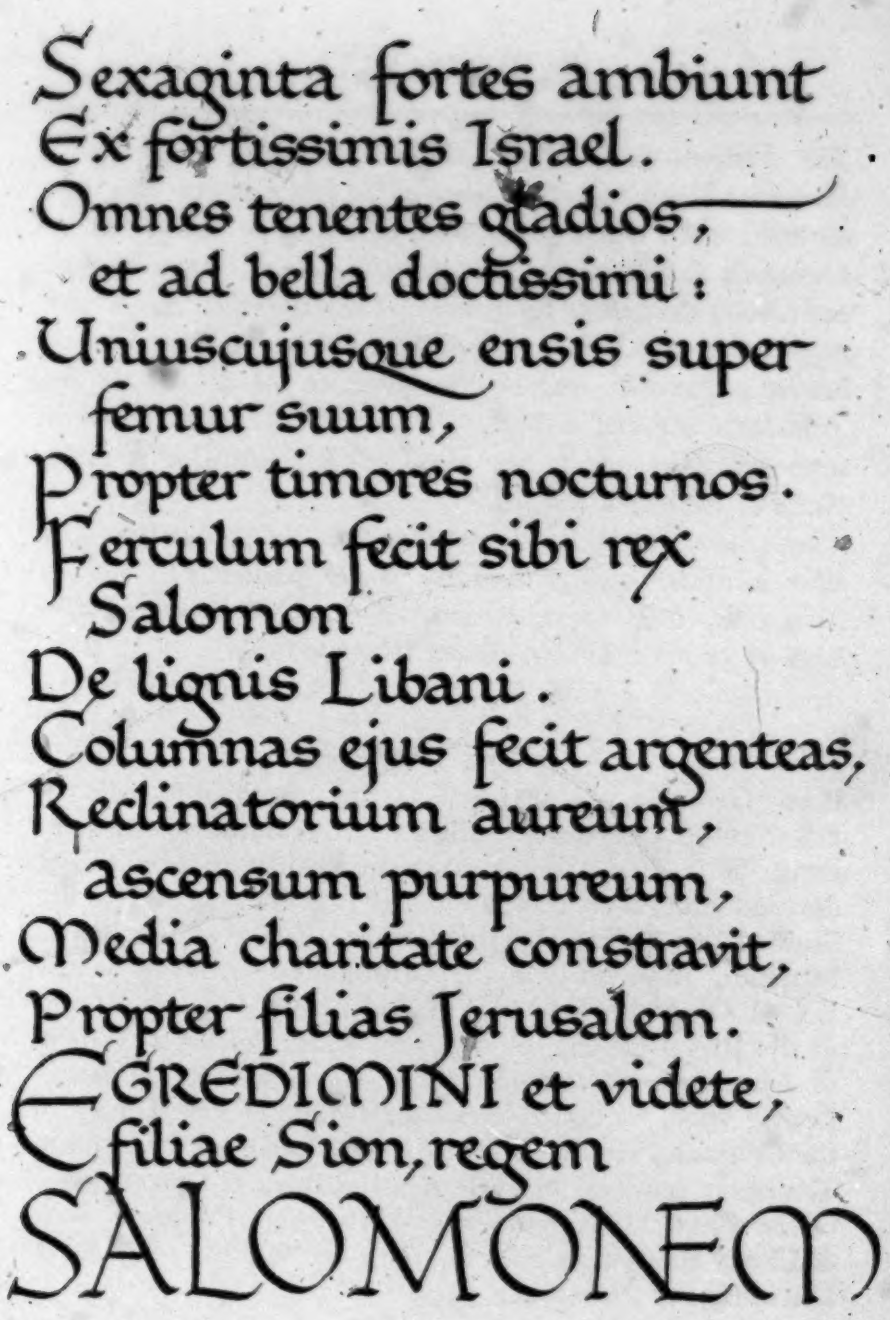
The Victoria and Albert Museum is proud to present a Memorial Exhibition of the work of the late Edward Johnston, the calligrapher whose genius, both as artist and teacher, has so profoundly influenced the art of letter design in this country and abroad throughout the century. The exhibition, which was suggested by Sir Sydney Cockerell, has been made as comprehensive as possible, and representative of the development of Johnston's art and method. Of the material available, only some duplicates and a few pieces of a fugitive or tentative character have been omitted.

Thanks are due to those who have lent the manuscripts and other exhibits; among them we would particularly mention Miss Bridget Johnston, the artist's daughter. The exhibition has been prepared by Mr. James Wardrop.

LEIGH ASHTON

EDWARD JOHNSTON

Born Uruguay, 11 February 1872. Studied Medicine, Edinburgh University, 1896–97. Abandoned medical career following a break-down in health; thenceforward devoted himself to the study and practice of calligraphy. Studied pen shapes of letters in early MSS. at the British Museum, 1898–99. Taught writing and lettering at the L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts, 1899–1912; and at the Royal College of Art from 1901. Published *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*, 1906; *Manuscript and Inscription Letters*, 1909. Designed types for Count Harry Kessler of the Cranach Press, Weimar, 1910–30. Designed for London Transport services, block letters based on the proportions of the Classical Roman Capital, 1916–29. President, Arts & Crafts Exhibition Society, 1933–36. C.B.E., 1939. Died Ditchling, 26 November 1944.



Page from 'Canticum Canticorum'. *c.* 1902 (Case A. No. 8). Reduced

CATALOGUE

Unless otherwise stated, manuscripts are on vellum or parchment.

1. Fifteenth-century Carol: 'Adam lay ybounden'. In red, on paper. 1925.
   Lent by Sir Sydney C. Cockerell.
2. Roll of Honour of St. Nicolas Church, Guildford. In black and red. 1931.
   Lent by St. Nicolas Church, Guildford.
3. Lines from the first Book of Barbour's *The Bruce*. In black and red. 1927.
   Lent by the Royal College of Art.
4. 'In no strange land', by Francis Thompson. In black, red and gold. 1911.
   Lent by the Misses Johnston.
5. St. Francis' Hymn. In black, red and gold. 1913.
   Lent by Miss D. Schuster.
6. Revelation, XXII, 1–2. In black, on paper. Undated: probably between 1900 and 1910.
   Lent by the Misses Johnston.
7. 'In no strange land', by Francis Thompson. In black and red. 1913.
   Lent by Mrs. M. Bardswell.
8. Address to John Monteath from the West Stirlingshire Unionist Association. In black, red and gold. 1925.
   Lent by John Monteath, Esq.
9. Opening twelve lines of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*. In black and red. 1926.
   Lent by Miss L. Puller.
10. Address to Alderman Charles Lakin from the Borough Council of Leicester. In black, red and gold. 1910.
    Lent by Reginald R. Lakin, Esq.

11. Revelation, XXI, 1–7, 10–11, 22–27. In black and red. *c.* 1916.
Lent by H. D. C. Pepler, Esq.

12. St. John's Gospel, I, 1–14. In black, red and gold. 1918.
Lent by Mrs. Frank Rinder.

13. Song from 'Cymbeline'. In red and gold. 1909. (Frame gilded by R. Anning Bell, R.A.)
Lent by E. M. Dinkel, Esq., A.R.W.S.

14. 'To the Body,' by Alice Meynell. In black and red. 1914.
Lent by the Rev. C. M. Lamb.

15. Edward Johnston. From a photograph, *c.* 1900.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

16. Edward Johnston. Drawing by Sir William Rothenstein. 1922.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

17. Edward Johnston. From a photograph. 1939.
Lent by James Wardrop, Esq.

18. 'I see His blood upon the rose,' by Joseph Mary Plunkett. In black. 1929.
Lent by the Rev. C. M. Lamb.

19. Address to Miss Chute-Ellis from the Plumpton and District Women's Institute. In black and red. 1928.
Lent by Miss Chute-Ellis.

20. Micah, VI, 6–8. In black and red. 1926.
Lent by Mrs. F. L. Griggs.

21. Extract from Plato's Symposium. In black. 1934.
Lent by Alfred J. Fairbank, Esq.

22. Address to Sir James L. Caw from the National Galleries of Scotland. In black and red, with decorations in red, blue and gold. 1930.
Lent by Sir James L. Caw.

23. Shakespeare: Sonnet CXVI. In black and red. 1927.
Lent by Mrs. Mary Walker.

24. Job, XXVIII, 1. In black and red, on paper. *c.* 1930.
Lent by Miss Margaret Alexander.

25. 'The Scribe', by Walter de la Mare. In black. 1929.
Lent by Mrs. D. Mahoney.

26. Anstye Village Hall Roll. In black, on paper. 1920. (*Note: the final 'd' in the name 'Hounsell' on the tenth and on the penultimate line was added by another hand.*)
Lent by the Anstye Village Hall Council.

27. Permanent almanac. Varnished cardboard in wooden frame. In black and red. 1932.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

28. Sans serif alphabet: capitals, lower case and numerals designed for the Underground Railways, 1916. The same alphabet redrawn heavier, 1929. Explanatory notes.
Victoria and Albert Museum (E 47–50. 1936).

29. (UPPER) Letter rejections from No. 28. (LOWER) Medallions for City & South London Railway; Metropolitan District Railway; London Electric Railway. 1921.
Lent by the London Passenger Transport Board.

30. Rough sketch for narrower version of the sans serif letter, as used on omnibuses. 1920.
Lent by the London Passenger Transport Board.

31. Green Line symbol. 1931.
Lent by the London Passenger Transport Board.

32. Draft for inscription in a church porch, at Kippen, Stirlingshire. In black and red, on paper. 1938.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

33. Two extracts from Chaucer. In black and red. 1924.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

34. 'The slaying of the wooers' (Odyssey, XXII). Greek uncials. In black. Undated: probably before 1910.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

35. Example of formal penmanship (written impromptu). In black and red, on paper. 1925.
Lent by Fred J. Partridge, Esq.

36. Pedigree of the Steward family. Compiled by Sir Henry Steward for his sister, the Marchesa Gwendoline Strozzi. In black and red, with heraldic emblazonings in gold, silver and colours. 1921.
Lent by Sir Henry Steward.

37. Thanksgiving Prayer. In black and red. 1931.
Lent by Mrs. J. V. Charlewood Turner.

CASE A

1. Pater Noster; Matthew, VI, 5–15, from the Vulgate. In black, red and gold, with an illuminated page. 1899.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

2. Pater Noster, Ave Maria and Credo. In black and gold. Undated: between 1899 and 1901.
Lent by Sir Eric Maclagan, C.B.E.

3. Communion Service. In black, gold and colours, with an illuminated page. 1900.
Lent by Sister Rachel.

4. Three experimental scripts based on the writing of the Stonyhurst Gospels. In black. 1900.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

5. The Ideal Book or Book Beautiful: a tract on calligraphy, printing and illustration, by T. J. Cobden-Sanderson. In black and gold. 1900.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

6. Marriage Service for Neil MacInnes and Ruth Armine Hoare. In black, gold and colours, with illuminations. 1904.
Lent by Mrs. Neil MacInnes.

7. Canticum Canticorum. In black and gold. Unfinished. 1905–6.
Victoria and Albert Museum (L 4620. 1934).

8. Canticum Canticorum. In black and gold. Unfinished. Undated: probably between 1900 and 1902.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

9. Canticum Canticorum. In black and gold. Unfinished. Undated: probably between 1900 and 1910.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

10. 'The Shepherd'; 'The Echoing Green', by William Blake. In black and red. Unfinished. Undated: probably between 1900 and 1910.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

11. A Sarong of Trenggam, by Frances Campbell. In brown and red, on paper. 1904. (The script is based on No. 13, Case H.)
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

12. 'Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting.' In black, with border decorated in colours. 1908.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

13. The Death of Marlowe, A Tragedy, by Richard Hengist Horne. In black, on paper. 1907.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

14. 'Bride the queen she loved not the world.' In black, with border decorated in colours. 1907.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

15. 'Of Gardens', by Francis Bacon. In black, red and gold. Written for Halsey Ricardo, 1910.
Victoria and Albert Museum (L 26. 1945).

16. 'Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting.' In black; initial in gold; border decorated in colours. 1908.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

17. 'Requiem', by Robert Louis Stevenson. In black and red. 1908.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

18. Pater Noster. In red and gold. 1908.
Lent by Lieut. J. J. Malim.

19. Rhymed version of the story of the Nativity. Unfinished. In black, red, blue and gold, with illuminations. 1909.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

20. Address to Count Harry Kessler, in German. Unfinished. In black. Undated: probably between 1912 and 1914.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

21. Poems of Katherine Horner (Mrs. Raymond Asquith). In black, red and gold. 1911.
Lent by the Hon. Mrs. Raymond Asquith.

CASE B

1. A Carol and other rhymes, by Edward Johnston. London (Hampshire House Workshops), 1915. With manuscript dedication in red to the publisher, H. D. C. Pepler. 1915.
Lent by H. D. C. Pepler, Esq.

2. Programme of Brahms recital by Hilda Saxe. Reproduced from a calligraphic design by Edward Johnston. *c.* 1918.
Lent by Francis Meynell, Esq.

3. A Carol and other rhymes, by Edward Johnston. (Reprint of No. 1.) 1916.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

4. Euclid, Book III, Proposition 36. From a letter to Noel Rooke. 17–19 May 1932.
Lent by Noel Rooke, Esq.

5. Letter to Miss Lessore, containing an analysis of the script shown in Case H, No. 13. 29 July 1904.
Lent by Mrs. L. Powell.

6. Letter to W. R. Lethaby, with remarks on English eighth-century writing, etc. 19 February 1913.
Lent by Mrs. L. Powell.

CASE C

1. Three poems by Edward Johnston. In black and red. 1913–1918.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

2. Address to the Rev. Stopford A. Brooke. In black and red: initial in gold. 1912.
Lent by Miss Evelyn Brooke.

3. Collect for the ninth Sunday after Trinity. In black and red. 1916.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

4. St. Luke, IV, 16–19 (R.V.). In red. 1915.
Lent by Mrs. Miles Johnston.

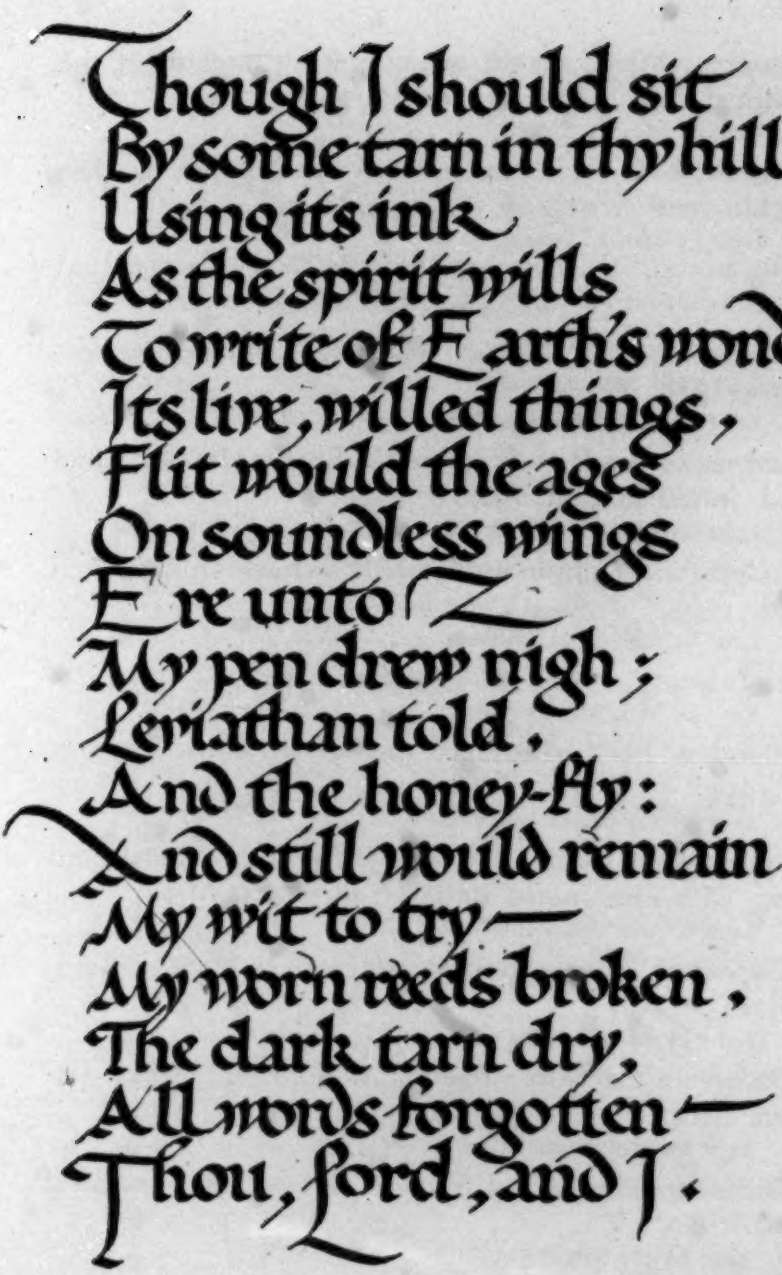
5. Founders' Book of Bedford College. In black and red. *c.* 1914.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

6. Verse composed by Edward Johnston. In black and red, with illuminated initials. On paper. 1926.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.

7. Verse from Blake's 'Jerusalem', f. 77. In black and red. 1922.
Lent by Miss P. Muirhead.

8. Collect for the sixth Sunday after Trinity. In black and red. 1919.
Lent by Mrs. Frank Rinder.

9. Collect for the second Sunday in Lent. In black and red. 1920.
Lent by the Misses Johnston.



Part of 'The Scribe', by Walter de la Mare, 1929 (No. 25). Reproduced by permission of Mr. Walter de la Mare. Reduced

10. 'To see the world in a grain of sand', by William Blake. In black and red. 1922.
    Lent by the Misses Johnston.

11. Herbal. In black, with coloured drawings by Olof Johnston. On paper. 1913.
    Lent by Roger Peach, Esq.

12. Golden Wedding address to Curling and Ellen Hunter. In red and gold. 1922.
    Lent by Edward Hunter, Esq.

13. 'Ula and the Rabbit.' A fairy-tale written and illustrated for Priscilla Johnston. In black and red. Initials and illustrations in gold and colours. On paper. 1918.
    Lent by the Misses Johnston.

14. Freedom Scroll of the Fishmongers' Company to F. M. Viscount French of Ypres. In black and red. 1916.
    Lent by Col. Sir E. G. Hippisley Cox.

15. Inscription in Greek, based on a palindrome by the Greek Emperor Leo the Philosopher, 886–911. 'Cleanse the sin, not the face only.' 1928.
    Lent by Miss P. Muirhead.

16. Vellum blotter with calligraphic border and centre. In black. 1928.
    Lent by the Misses Johnston.

17. Diploma of the L.C.C. Central School of Arts & Crafts. Engraved by G. T. Friend from a free design by Edward Johnston. 1928–1932.
    Lent by the Central School of Arts & Crafts.

18. Collect for the fourth Sunday after Easter. In black and red. 1929.
    Lent by the Rev. C. M. Lamb.

19. Benediction. In black and gold on varnished wood panel. 1927.
    Lent by E. Richmond, Esq.

During his last years, Edward Johnston occupied himself, when his failing health permitted, in the composition of calligraphic letters to his friends. The characteristic motif of these letters is the initials of the recipient, written with a broad pen. Nos. 20–27 comprise a selection of the letters, in each case lent by the recipient. Examples of Edward Johnston's ordinary handwriting are shown in cases B and G.

20. To Mr. & Mrs. H. Bourne. 20 December 1941.
21. To Anthony Gardner, Esq. 8 December 1943.
22. To Alfred J. Fairbank, Esq. 19 December 1941.
23. To Sir Sydney C. Cockerell. 16–22 May 1943.
24. To Mrs. Mary Gill. 24 December 1942–4 March 1943.
25. To B. J. Fletcher, Esq. 13–14 March 1943.
26. To Noel Rooke, Esq. 8–12 March 1943.
27. To Irene Sutton (Mrs. Wellington). 5 January 1942.

CASE D

1. *The Tragedie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmarke*, by William Shakespeare. Printed by Count Harry Kessler at the Cranach Press, Weimar, 1930; the type designed by Edward Johnston, *c.* 1910, and cut by Edward Prince and G. T. Friend.
   Victoria and Albert Museum (L. 2768. 1930).

2–3. Instructions to G. T. Friend, punch-cutter, relating to the type designed for Count Harry Kessler. 1927.
   Presented by G. T. Friend, Esq. V. & A. Museum.

4. Duineser Elegien, by Rainer Maria Rilke. Experimental proof of lower-case italic type designed by Edward Johnston for Count Harry Kessler. *c.* 1913.
   Presented by G. T. Friend, Esq. V. & A. Museum.

5–6. Instructions to G. T. Friend, punch-cutter, relating to the upper-case italic type designed by Edward Johnston for Count Harry Kessler. 1930.
   Presented by G. T. Friend, Esq. V. & A. Museum.

7. *Men & Women*, by Robert Browning. London (Doves Press), 1908. Flourished by Edward Johnston.
   Lent by the Misses Johnston.
8. *The Tragicall Historie of Hamlet, Prince of Denmarke*, by William Shakespeare. London (Doves Press), 1909. With hand-written initial by Edward Johnston.
   Lent by the Misses Johnston.
9. *Ten Poems by Alice Meynell, 1913–1915*. Westminster (Romney Street Press), 1915. Rubricated by Edward Johnston.
   Lent by Francis Meynell, Esq.
10. Book-jacket for *Grave Fairy Tale* by Esther Meynell, 1931. *The only jacket designed by Edward Johnston.*
    Lent by Francis Meynell, Esq.

CASE E

1. Communion Service, with the Collects, Epistles and Gospels for 25 Festivals and Holy Days. In black, red and blue; initials (some illuminated) in gold and colours; with five fully illuminated pages. Given to the Church of the Holy Trinity, Hastings, by the late C. B. Gabb, in memory of his wife. 1902. (*Rep. in 'Writing & Illuminating & Lettering', pl. XXII.*)
   Lent by Holy Trinity Church, Hastings.
2. Book of Sample Scripts. In black and red. Written for Sir S. C. Cockerell. 1914.
   Lent by Sir Sydney C. Cockerell.
3. Roll of Honour of the Borough of Keighley. In black, red and blue, with two illuminated pages. 1924.
   Lent by the Borough of Keighley.

CASE F

1. Photographs of blackboard demonstrations given by Edward Johnston at the Royal College of Art, and L.C.C. Central School of Arts and Crafts. 1924–33.
   Lent by Miss Violet Hawkes.

2. 'Calligraphy Sheet, I. A sketch of the development of lettering from the Roman A B C by the use of the pen.' Mimeographed copy. 1902.
   Lent by Mrs. L. Powell.

3. Mimeographed copy showing half-uncials and uncials. 1901.
   Lent by Sir Sydney C. Cockerell.

4. Two sheets used as examples in 'holiday lessons' given to the children of Mrs. E. Meynell. 1926.
   Lent by Mrs. Esther Meynell.

5. Notebook for a student taking private lessons. 1930–33.
   Lent by Miss Margaret Alexander.

6. 'Copy No. 1.' Four experimental sheets printed by Douglas Pepler in 1916; with hand-written copies by Edward Johnston after Winchester formal writing. 1916–18.
   The signed copies lent by Sir Sydney C. Cockerell.
   The unsigned copy lent by Fred J. Partridge, Esq.

7. Three plates from *Manuscript and Inscription Letters*, by Edward Johnston. London (John Hogg), 1909.
   Victoria and Albert Museum (L 1520. 1909).

CASE G

With the exception of No. 2, all the exhibits in this case were lent by Sir Sydney C. Cockerell.

1. *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*, by Edward Johnston. With diagrams and illustrations by the author and Noel Rooke. One of the Artistic Crafts Series of Technical Handbooks edited by W. R. Lethaby. 1 ed. London (John Hogg), 1906. (*Note: The illustration by Noel Rooke shows Edward Johnston's hands.*)

2. *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*. [illegible] ed. 1908. Copy containing the author's manuscript corrections, and instructions to the printer, for the third edition.
Lent by H. Lindsey Smith, Esq.

3. *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*. 19th impression. 1942. Copy annotated throughout in the author's hand, with calligraphic dedication to Sir S. C. Cockerell. 1943.

4. *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*. 5 ed. 1913. With calligraphic dedication in black and red to Sir S. C. Cockerell. 1913.

5. Letter to Sir S. C. Cockerell, containing remarks on vellum, etc. 17 October 1900.

6. Letter to Sir S. C. Cockerell, relating to *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering* and mentioning the calligrapher's interest in Morris's writing. 15 September 1904.

7. Letter to Sir S. C. Cockerell, relating to *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*. 21 August 1904.

8. Letter, with calligraphic heading, to Sir S. C. Cockerell, relating to *Writing & Illuminating & Lettering*. 27 June 1907.

9. Letter to Sir S. C. Cockerell, which explains the dedication of No. 4. 27 November 1913.

CASE H

With the exceptions of Nos. 2 and 13, all the exhibits in this case were lent by Sir Sydney C. Cockerell.

MANUSCRIPTS BY WILLIAM MORRIS WHO FIRST, IN MODERN TIMES, REVIVED THE PRACTICE OF WRITING MANUSCRIPT BOOKS.

1. Experimental leaves of the Rubáiyát of Omar Khayyám. *c.* 1876.

2. The Odes of Horace. *c.* 1876.
   Lent by the Bodleian Library.
3. Some leaves of the Heimskringla, translated by William Morris. *c.* 1876.
4. The Story of Kormak, translated from the Icelandic by William Morris and written out by him, on paper, *c.* 1871. (*Decorations unfinished.*)
5. The Tale of Halder, translated from the Icelandic by William Morris and partly written out by him. *c.* 1873.

MEDIAEVAL AND RENAISSANCE MANUSCRIPTS STUDIED BY EDWARD JOHNSTON

6. Cassiodorus. Epistolae. French, twelfth cent.
7. Latin Bible. York, 2nd half of thirteenth cent. (*Rep. in 'Writing & Illuminating & Lettering', pl. XIII.*)
8. The Golden Psalter. St. Albans, *c.* 1140.
9. The Penitential Psalms, in Italian; Psalter of St. Jerome, etc. Written by Mark of Vicenza. Italian, late fifteenth cent. (*Rep. in 'Writing & Illuminating & Lettering', pl. XX.*)
10. Catullus. Carmina. Italian, late fifteenth cent.
11. Various grammatical pieces. Italian. *c.* 1500.
12. Psalter of St. Jerome and various prayers. Written and decorated by Joachinus de Gigantibus of Rotenberg for Pope Sixtus IV. Italian, dated 1481. (*Rep. in 'Writing & Illuminating & Lettering', pl. XIX.*)
13. Catalogue of Roman inscriptions. On paper. Italian, sixteenth cent. (*Rep. and discussed in 'Writing & Illuminating & Lettering', pp.* 317–323.)
    Lent by the Misses Johnston.
14. Poems of Cardinal Bembo. Italian, *c.* 1540. (*Rep. in 'Writing & Illuminating & Lettering', pl. XXI.*)